

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 235325

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

CANALNEGS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR/PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON
ACTIVITIES

FOR BELL FROM WYROUGH

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 5 FROM THE DEPARTMENT RESPECTING
SEPTEMBER 1975 NEGOTIATING ROUND.

II.

1. HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE MET OCTOBER 2 TO CONSIDER
SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR SNYDER AMENDMENT. SENATE MEMBERS
SUPPORTED OPTION THREE VERSION AS PROPOSED YESTERDAY BY
ROGERS AND DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER WITH PASTORE,
CEDERBERG AND SLACK. HOUSE MEMBERS THEN CAUCUSED AND
VOTED FIVE-FOUR TO OPPOSE DELETION OF WORD "VITAL" AND
BY SAME MARGIN TO RETAIN PROPOSED LANGUAGE REFERRING TO
THE CANAL ZONE UNCHANGED RATHER THAN ADDING "AND THE CANAL

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ZONE" AT THE END. TEXT OF THE LANGUAGE AS APPROVED BY

THE CONFERENCE NOW READS:QUOTE: IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT ANY NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY OR AGREEMENT

MUST PROTECT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE CANAL ZONE AND IN THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, PROPERTY AND DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. UNQUOTE. HOUSE VOTE IS EXPECTED MONDAY OR TUESDAY AND OUTLOOK FOR APPROVAL SEEMS FAVORABLE.

AT "H"'S SUGGESTION, AMBASSADOR BUNKER IS ON THE HILL THIS AFTERNOON MAKING A SERIES OF INDIVIDUAL CALLS IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE LANGUAGE.

IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT PEZZULLO HAS INFORMED ME THAT SENATOR GOLDWATER HAS EXPRESSED TO THE SECRETARY HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL WITH REGARD TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE BOSTON GLOBE ON 10/1 CARRIED AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN WILLIAM BEECHER OF ITS WASHINGTON BUREAU AND DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT CLEMENTS INDICATED THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO BEGIN SOON PHASING PANAMANIAN TROOPS INTO THE DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL AND, AFTER A MUTUALLY AGREED PERIOD, PULLING THE BULK OF U.S. FORCES OUT. ACCORDING TO BEECHER, CLEMENTS SAID THAT THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE UNMANAGEABLE SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE CANAL ZONE REQUIRING AN INDEFINITE AND LARGE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE THERE. BEECHER LATER QUOTES CLEMENTS AS SAYING: QUOTE: GRASS ROOTS AMERICA HAS GOT TO REALIZE THROUGH AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS THAT THE ERA OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND BIG-STICK DIPLOMACY AND BANANA REPUBLICS IS GONE AND SHOULD BE RECALLED ONLY WITH NOSTALGIA.

THE UNITED STATES, IN A FULL SENSE OF MATURITY, IS OBLIGATED TO GET OUT FRONT AND SETTLE THIS ISSUE. IF WE CAN'T, WE DON'T DESERVE THE KIND OF WORLD LEADERSHIP WE CLAIM WE HAVE. UNQUOTE.

3. REGARDING YOUR MEMO TO VEYSEY ON COORDINATING OUR SECRET

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EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS AT DOD INITIATIVE ALEX, SANDSTROM, AND NIEBURG MET WITH NAVY CAPTAIN WRIGHTN, MILITARY ADVISER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. WHILE ALEX EMPHASIZED NEED FOR EARLY RESPONSE WRIGHT FELT THAT NSDM LANGUAGE TO "BUILD SUPPORT FOR A NEW TREATY" WOULD CAUSE DOD PROBLEMS. HE CITED LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTION ON "PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA" BY DEFENSE AS WELL AS PRESIDENTIAL 1970 INSTRUCTION TO CUT

BACK ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS. DESPITE OUR DISAGREEMENT
WITH DOD INTERPRETATION, WRIGHT INDICATED THAT ONLY

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM CLEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO
POLICY AND MANPOWER FOR AN EDUCATIONAL EFFORT WOULD
PERMIT THEIR MOVING FORWARD IN A COORDINATED MANNER
WITH STATE. BEFORE MOVING FURTHER, WE ARE CONTACTING
VEYSEY'S OFFICE AND GIVING DEFENSE SOME ADDITIONAL
TIME IN LIGHT OF THE INGERSOLL-CLEMENTS MEETING RE-
PORTED YESTERDAY.

4. IN 9/30 CALL ON AMBASSADOR BUNKER, DEAN BUTCHER
NOTED THAT DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT HE INTENDS TO SEEK
A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM GEORGE MEANY FOR HIS LABOR CON-
FEDERATION. BUTCHER FEELS THAT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD HELP
HIS CONFEDERATION OBTAIN MORE RECOGNITION FROM TORRIJOS
IN ITS STRUGGLE TO COMPETE WITH LOCAL COMMUNIST UNIONS.
THIS IN TURN MIGHT GIVE THE CTRP SOME VOICE IN PANAMA'S
NEGOTIATING ADVISORY GROUP. WE ADVISED BUTCHER TO GET
HIS CONCERNS ABOUT BOTH THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE COM-
PETITIVE POSITION OF HIS CONFEDERATION BEFORE THE INTER-
NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE AT THE CURRENT AFL-CIO CON-
VENTION, AND THAT HE MIGHT TRY TALKING WITH LANE
KIRKLAND AND JERRY WURF OF AFL-CIO BEFORE TACKLING
MEANY. AMBASSADOR BUNKER EXPECTS THAT BUTCHER WILL CON-
TACT US HERE BEFORE HIS RETURN TO PANAMA.

5. I AM MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH STEVE LOW AND
RON NESSEN AT WHITE HOUSE FOR A BACKGROUND DISCUSSION ON
THE NEGOTIATION.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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